

# FORBEARS OF HUMAN RACE

Adam and Eve the First Runaway Couple

## CHARACTERISTICS OF SIN

It Is Impulsive, Expulsive and Repulsive. First of a Series of Lecture Sermons by Rev. J. Harvey Deere.

Rev. J. Harvey Deere, pastor of the First Baptist church, has prepared a series of special sermons for delivery during the Sunday evenings of September. The first sermon of the series was delivered last night, the subject being "The First Runaway Couple."

Mr. Deere said:

Far back into history must we go to find the story of the first runaway couple. The father and mother of us all set a bad example for their children. They were runaways.

There was not an element for matrimonial purposes, however. It would be difficult, indeed, to find any reason for such a thing. There were no parents to object. Adam was the first man and Eve the only woman. There were no rival lovers to outwit. The man had no competitor; and the woman had the same number.

But Adam and Eve were attempted runaways just the same—not away from home but away from God.

One day as they strolled in Eden they heard the voice of God calling to them. Already they had broken the divine commandment, and being conscious of their guilt, the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord amongst the trees of the garden.

Talk about the silliness of the ostrich that thinks it is hidden from its enemies when it has only buried its head in the sand and leaves its 500 lb. body exposed to the gaze of its pursuer. Why, the folly of the king bird were wisdom as compared with that of Adam and Eve, or of their descendants, who think one can secrete himself away from the presence of God.

And especially is this true when one knows no better than to fancy he can hide in nature's haunt.

For nature, says Young in his Night Thought, "is elder script, writ by God's own hand." It was not accident that Worksworth walked in the fields to commune with God. The flowers are God's beautiful thoughts, the trees are His uplift-thoughts, the waters are His sparkling thoughts. And Adam should have known and so should we all know that the closer we get to the heart of Eden the closer we are to the heart of God.

Eden was vocal with the presence of its Creator. "And the Lord God called unto Adam—where art thou?" Not that God did not know, but because He did, and because He would call Adam to his senses. Sure enough the response came, "I heard thy voice in the garden and I hid myself."

There follows the confession of guilt which Adam attempted to put upon his wife. Men have been trying that trick ever since. They would do different, they would be different, they say, if the wife would only co-operate. True, the wife is a mighty factor in the home, for good or for ill. She helps or she hinders. But it hardly seems credible that a real man would try to compress himself into such small compass as to hide himself behind his wife's skirts, especially the narrow skirts of today.

"Eve was her husband's match. She was as ready to unload the guilt as her husband was. She was shrewder, however, for she would put the blame on the serpent, and it could not talk back.

But God rested the guilt where it belonged—on Adam—on Eve and on the serpent. The serpent, He doomed to crawl in the dust with enmity between it and mankind.

And it is so yet; while the would be runaway couple He drove out of the garden into a life of suffering, sorrow, toil and hardship—with Eden as a sad reminder of the days that were and of the lives that might have been.

Now we have in this striking episode a three-fold suggestion of the way sin works. Sin is impulsive. Sin is expulsive. Sin is repulsive. Each characteristic finds wonderful illustration in the lives of the first husband and wife.

1—Let us face it. Sin is impulsive. You know what an impulsive man is. He thinks once and speaks twice, or he speaks three times without thinking at all.

Sin is like that. Results it does not weigh. Consequences it does not ponder. No evidence do you find here that Adam and Eve had any forethought whatsoever in eating the fruit. Eve did seem to show a little, but even then she went it blind.

They knew, the commandment that surrounded the tree whose fruit they must not even touch. If they were so anxious to taste—why did they not sit in the shade of its boughs and reason together? "Now that fruit looks good, wish we might taste it, but if we do—No, they never weighed results. No, they never weighed results. Whether disobedience would work ill to them and injury to their off-spring,

they never questioned. For sin does not consider. Blinded by desire it reaches forth its hurried hand and takes.

I know there seem to be exceptions. The law recognizes degrees of guilt in crime and it regulates its penalty accordingly. Some crimes are premeditated and then committed in cold blood without concern for results, like the Beattie murder in Va., or the awful man slaughter of a few days ago in our own city. But to me this does not disprove the impulsiveness of sin. For, personally, I am convinced that even premeditated crime is premeditated hatred that strikes its blow without picturing beforehand the shame and the suffering, the torture and the death that will follow.

Oh, how thoughtless sin is. The man who spends 25c a day for tobacco, 10c for ice-cream, 50c per week for theater privileges, 15c for chewing-gum, and at the same time makes no provision, whatever, for the church's need, for charities' call and for the evangelization of the world does not realize the depths of selfishness into which he has plunged.

He likes a game of Sunday ball—he is said to his shame. He finds it easy to give vent to his anger in words of profanity—he is admitted with deepest regret. He allows the months to pass without so much as going to the place of worship—he is acknowledged with a confession of disloyalty to his early training. The Bible, the Lord's day, the Kingdom of God, the church, and all things sacred he ignores. But never did he think it would be so. For when he set his face toward the lowlands he never followed out before-hand the reaches to which his career would take him.

Even Jesus gave wonderful expression to the impulsiveness of sin. You recall how he prayed for his enemies in the hour of His crucifixion. It was as the heavy stake with its suffering victim upon it was being driven by relentless hands into the ground that his lips uttered in a petition for His crucifiers. "Father forgive them for they know not what they do."

Have you ever carefully weighed what Jesus said? Certainly He was not excusing His crucifiers. Their guilt was real and awful. But He was pleading for mercy on their behalf on the ground of their failure to measure the actual awfulness and the age-long effect of their deed. In other words He said this: "Father, have mercy upon those who are slaying me, for they are doing it without weighing the results of their deed."

I want to say tonight, and in this connection, that I do not believe any man who weighs results would reject the Lord of heaven. Be he Ingersoll, Voltaire, Tom Paine, or the most defiled wretch that weaves upon the streets of Phoenix, or the most moral man in our city's life.

Consider! To say to God's Son: "I can get along without you" involves too many disastrous results. The doom of unrepentant sin rests upon him, according to this book. Verily, verily I say unto you, except a man be born again he cannot see the Kingdom of God."

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## PHOENIX PROOF.

Joseph Coulson, 445 W. Washington Street, Phoenix, Ariz., says: "For some time I was about laid up with my back. There was a dull, nagging pain across my loins and kidneys which bothered me almost constantly. About two years ago I had a fall which injured my back and I was unconscious for many hours. This was the beginning of my troubles and I knew that my kidneys were affected. The use of three boxes of Doan's Kidney Pills brought me relief and I have had no trouble to speak of since. I am a strong advocate of Doan's Kidney Pills."

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And saddest of all—the life of earth that has been lived for self alone must go hence to pay the penalty of its eternal insult to God "who so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him might not perish but have everlasting life."

R. H. Conwell tells the story of an old sea captain. Although his little daughter was seriously ill the master of the ship felt he must daily give himself to his task so long as possible. Some times his journey lasted for a week. One day upon his return he noticed that the dread disease had made rapid inroads upon the strength of his child. Indeed it was plain that life would soon be extinct. She looked, wistfully, up into his face and held up her emaciated arms as if to say: "Pa please take me up." The grizzled sea captain looked into the face of the doctor without a word, but his look was plainly a solicitation to secure permission. The doctor, catching his meaning, said: "You would as well gratify your child's wish, for she can not recover anyway." So tenderly the old father, stooping over, placed his arm beneath the little one, and lifting

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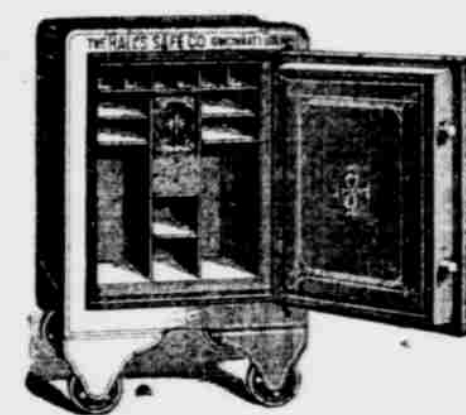
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